

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

**I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Mizutani et al (EP 1 367 440).

Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of his priority document, i.e., JP 2003-067010, to obtain the benefit of his priority claim, thereby removing Mizutani et al. EP '440 as prior art against the present claims. Mizutani et al. was published December 3, 2003, after Applicant's priority date of March 12, 2003. Support for the present claims in JP '010 is summarized below:

| <u>Present claim</u> | <u>JP 2003-067010</u>              |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1-4                  | claims 1-4, respectively           |
| 5                    | page 16, lines 8-10                |
| 6                    | page 16, lines 11-12               |
| 7                    | page 16, lines 13-15               |
| 8                    | page 16, lines 16-18               |
| 9                    | page 16, lines 19-22               |
| 10                   | paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 |
| 11                   | page 17, lines 2-4                 |
| 12                   | page 17, lines 5-6                 |
| 13                   | page 17, lines 7-8                 |
| 14                   | page 111, last paragraph           |

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

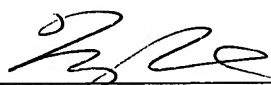
Respectfully submitted,

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